

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT:NB

APPROVED BY AF/TSEELYE

AF/EX:EGKRYZA

SCA:JSOMMERVILLE

L:JROWER

M(INFO)

S/S -JPMOFFAT

EUR/NA:JSHUMATE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONTINGENCY REQUEST FOR USG TO ACT AS
PROTECTING POWER IN ETHIOPIA

REF:7 FAM 900

1.BRITISH EMBSSY WASHINGTON TODAY ASKED US IF WE WOULD
BE WILLING TO ACT AS PROTECTING POWER SHOULD PMG BREAK
RELATIONS WITH HMG. BRITISH APPARENTLY HAVE INDICATIONS
THAT THIS MOVE MAY BE FORTHCOMING, AS A RESULT OF PMG DIS-
PLEASURE OVER CERTAIN BROADCASTS ON INDEPENDENT BRITISH TV
UNFAVORABLE TO PRESENT DAY ETHIOPIA AND CONTINUED PRESENCE
AND ACTIVITIES IN LONDON OF ETHIOPIAN ANTI-PMG EXILES.

2. IF BREAK OCCURS AND JUNIOR BRITISH EMBASSY STAFF ALLOWED
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TO REMAIN HMG WOULD PREFER TO HAVE DUTCH OR BELGAINS RE-

PRESENT THEM. IF ALL BRITISH STAFF MEMBERS ARE EVICTED
THEY FEEL ONLY WE HAVE RESOURCES TO LOOK AFTER THEIR COM-
POUND, ON WHICH LIVE THEIR LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES,
OVER 200 INDIVIDUALS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THIS REQUEST. OUR
FEELING IS THAT WE SHOULD ACCEPT THIS TASK SUBJECT TO REIM-
BURSEMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED, SPECIFICALLY THE

POSSIBLE FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL AMERICAN AND LOCAL POSI-
TIONS IN ADDIS IF REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE. BRITISH HAVE
REQUESTED EARLY REPLY SO WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
VIEWS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MONDAY, MAY 3. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, PHYSICAL SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE104673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSBARRETT:NB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760165-0857
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976041/aaaaaaqg.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH CONTINGENCY REQUEST FOR USG TO ACT AS PROTECTING POWER IN ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, ET, UK, US
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006